

GALAXY HIJINKS STUN VIEWERS

WHEN DOUGLAS Adams gazed up at the stars one night while hitch-hiking through Spain, he contemplated what it would be like to hitch-hike through the galaxy.

Soon after he wrote a novel based on the idea. But even Douglas, with his fantastic imagination, could never have dreamed that his book would become a successful television and radio series.

Even those who do not consider themselves sci-fi fans will find **The Hitch-hikers Guide To The Galaxy** (now screening on ABC-TV) a splendid comedy that combines stunning visual special effects and a soundtrack even better than the original radio series.

The six-part series features some of the most advanced technology in television, highlighted by the spacecraft Heart Of Gold, with its all-steel interior and revolving bridge.

But while special effects play a major part in the series, every attempt has been made to avoid detracting from Douglas Adams' classic tale.

Peter Jones, well known to Australian viewers as the boss in the highly-popular **Rag Trade** series, is the narrator who gives galactic hitch-hikers relevant information and keeps everyone in touch with events.

Simon Jones plays Arthur Dent, the earthling rescued from earth only seconds before its destruction.

Other stars are Mark Wing-Davey as an extraordinary two-headed, triple-armed Zaphod Beeblebrox, and Stephen Moor as the voice of Marvin, the paranoid android.

David Dixon plays the alien Ford Prefect — a name chosen before coming to earth — and Sandra Dickinson is Trillian, an acquaintance of Arthur Dent.

Producer Alan Bell said the series was



made retaining as much as possible of the earlier radio series.

"We also decided it should not fall into the mould of sci-fi productions by making it entertaining to non-sci-fi fans.

"We have tried to leave as much as possible to the imagination, so that backgrounds are not overstated.

"We have tried throughout the series to remain within the bounds of credibility. Although some very odd things happen to Arthur and his friends, everything has a possible explanation."

• **ABOVE:** An example of the amazing make-up in the new series.

• **RIGHT:** Trillian (Sandra Dickinson) and the two-headed alien Zaphod Beeblebrox (Mark Wing-Davey).



The PAUL NEWMAN STORY

BY PAUL NEWMAN

THE MOVIE SUPERSTAR TALKS EXCLUSIVELY TO TV WEEK ABOUT HIS LIFE AND LOVES

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